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25 August 1957

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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DIA review(s) completed.

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1. EGYPTIAN REGIME REPORTEDLY MAY CHARGE
"AMERICAN PLOT"

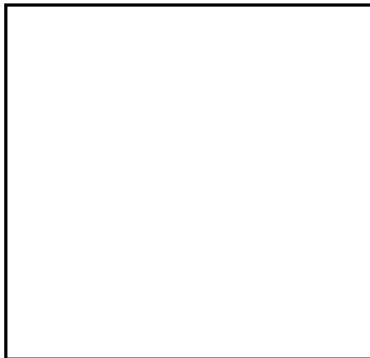


Comment

Cairo's current plot trials have not been a success from the regime's standpoint--several witnesses have denied the charges vehemently and some have repudiated confessions extracted from them under duress. The regime is thus under some pressure to produce a new sensation. Charges of an "American plot" at this time, however, would appear to identify Egypt closely with parallel charges by Syria, and Nasr reportedly has not wanted other Asian-African states, particularly neutralists, to make this identification at a time when they consider that Syria may have gone too far toward Communism.

2. LIKELIHOOD OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI BORDER INCIDENTS INCREASED

Reference:



[redacted] the appointment of relatively young Syrian officers to key commands along the Israeli front increases the likelihood of serious border incidents in that area. [redacted]

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[redacted] Lieutenant Colonel Akram Dayri, [redacted] former chief of military police, was named commanding officer on the front on 20 August.

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All the officers commanding major units on the front reportedly are either contemporaries of or younger than Dayri, who allegedly executed the orders to blow up the oil pipeline from Iraq in November 1956. The front area now under his command is traversed by Tapline, the oil conduit from Saudi Arabia.

On the Israeli side, [redacted]

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[redacted] the Israeli army is carrying on brigade and division maneuvers in the Eilabun region west of Lake Tiberias. While this area is a normal training ground for the Israelis, [redacted] the presence of troops there at this time also serves to guard against untoward developments from Syria.

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4. MAJOR FRENCH POLICIES SEEN DIRECTLY INFLUENCED BY SPECIAL POLLS

Comment on:

25X1 [REDACTED] The Bourges-Maunoury government is reportedly relying heavily on special opinion surveys conducted for it by the French Institute of Public Opinion to guide its policymaking on key issues. This may explain why the basic statute the government is now proposing for Algeria is less liberal than had been anticipated. A late July poll showed 70 percent of the French public opposed to independence for Algeria.

25X1 [REDACTED] the present government has even more confidence in the polls than did the Mollet government, which undertook extensive soundings before its Suez intervention, and that the frequency of surveys is being stepped up despite the government's general economizing.

Bourges-Maunoury may see in the poll technique a way to shore up his precarious parliamentary position. The July survey indicated that only 20 percent of the public was favorable to him, but that two thirds expressed no opinion. While his government's strong stand on financial policy has probably aroused more support, he can be expected to seek further dramatic steps to improve his political position.

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